

The macdonald Journal

MAY 1971



*A Haven
in the Hills*

*The Wales
Home*

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THE MACDONALD LASSIE

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Journal Jottings

Whatever the shortcomings of the human race, and I must admit that I am not one of its most adamant admirers, one still feels an almost erotic tingling of well being when confronted with a display of concern and compassion by one segment of mankind for another. And when this compassion bridges a generation gap of some 55 years, then you have to sit up, take notice and breathe a sigh of relief. Gone is the ache in your heart for a portion of the youth of today who seek an escape from life through drugs; it is ironic when you consider that in many instances it is drugs that are helping the other generation to sustain life rather than escape it. Regretfully it is the cop outs that get all the headlines, all the attention. The article on the Wales Home in this issue helps to rectify that situation.

The article is on a home for senior citizens in the Eastern Townships — it is a unique home and a fine

tribute to the personnel of the Home and the citizens of the surrounding communities. Yes, it is unique but even more unique, in my opinion, is the fact that the article was written by two fifth year agriculture students who worked long, hard, and diligently to put this piece into shape. It wasn't just a project — they tackled the subject with a genuine desire to probe into the entire sphere of homes for senior citizens and I think you will feel from their writing the genuine admiration and satisfaction they felt in finding a home worthy of recognition — a home they wish could be used as a model for all such institutions.

But the behind-the-scenes story doesn't end there. The story of the Wales Home became a special project of not only the writers but of their Seminar classmates as they learn to whip the copy into shape, chose photos, proofread, design a cover and do the layout for the article. This group of graduating

students might be more at home with topics relating to agriculture but they had a project to complete and in so doing they managed, on their part, to close that generation gap a little. And, for my part, I think I left the sessions a little more knowledgeable about young people and somewhat more aware of their desires and goals. I realized that we're not so far apart after all. I hope they concur.

I also left feeling a little less concerned about the grey hairs that are "prematurely" appearing — for two reasons. I think that up-coming generations will not only worry about little, grey-haired old ladies, but they will see that senior citizens are treated with the respect and honour that is their due, something which is sadly lacking in a large segment of today's society. And with models such as The Wales Home to guide them, there will be a welcome haven somewhere in the hills when my turn comes.

Hazel M. Clarke

When it comes to the education of young people in Quebec, most changes proposed by the Ministry of Education bring howls of protest from the general public when the Ministry tampers with the supposed hallowed ground of English language education; the voices of criticism would make one think that any major change would mean the end of English culture in Quebec. On the one hand, the government has the responsibility to make sure that education in Quebec is as good if not better than anywhere else in Canada. The government also has the responsibility to develop structures to ensure the most efficient use of the taxpayers' money. On the other hand, there are those who are ready to challenge suggested changes by the government in the Supreme Court of Canada. This sort of polarization could lead to a lowering of the quality of education.

In April, Bill 27, a bill to regroup the school board systems in Quebec was proposed. In essence, Bill 27 specifies the reduction of the number of school boards from 1,100 to 168. Of this latter number, 9 will be designated as Protestant Boards. Bill 27 is concerned with the regrouping and management of school boards off the Island of Montreal. Because of this, the reorganization will have major impact on rural communities in Quebec.

The enactment of the legislation in Bill 27 is a good thing for rural education in Quebec. The age of the local school board running a local school is past. It just doesn't fit in with the sophisticated management and technology of 1971 style education. Now that all

English language rural youth attend large comprehensive regional high schools, it is only logical that school board regroupings should be based on the educational community of each high school.

The major error in redrawing the schoolboard map in Bill 27 centres on the area immediately to the west of the Macdonald campus. The Bill has lumped Ile Perrot and the Vaudreuil-Soulanges Counties in with the Chateauguay Valley Board, some 30 miles away. Traditionally these areas have been part of the Lakeshore Regional Board, a very natural affiliation since the area is economically and socially related to the Lakeshore area of Montreal. The forced affiliation of those in the area immediately west of Montreal to the Chateauguay Board will, no doubt, bring howls of protest. And rightfully it should since it is comparable to making two orange crates out of a perfectly good table! If this error in judgment can be corrected, then the plans to reorganize the patchwork of small school boards in Quebec can be commended.

Unfortunately, these educational communities as specified by Bill 27 are not the same for Protestants and Catholics and thus when the time comes in 10 or 20 years to group structures according to language rather than religion, another bill similar to Bill 27 will have to be proposed. At least the Minister of Education is sensitive to the concerns of rural Quebec in not forcing the Boards to drop their confessional natures. Rather than fighting, the quick adoption of Bill 27 will benefit rural education in Quebec.

The regrouping of school boards on the Island of Montreal is a very different story, however, than that of rural Quebec. In fact, it

is hard to imagine two areas that have so much to do with each other but which are so different. In the city there are more extremes of richness and poverty, there are many more ethnic groups, there is much more transiency and there is also a greater demand for education as a means of social mobility rather than learning skills with which to get work.

By mid-April, the Bill to reorganize school boards on the Island of Montreal had not been proposed. But the lack of a specific Bill did not stop the Provincial Association of Protestant School Boards from starting to organize opposition to a Bill that hadn't even been printed. It was also strongly rumoured, rumours which were carried as headlines in daily newspapers, that the School Boards would fight the Bill in the Supreme Court of Canada on Constitutional grounds. If this happens, then the progress of education on the Island will be delayed by many years. It would seem that a few people in major jobs in the school boards want to protect their status. In fact, some of them don't seem to give a damn about the improvement of education. If only Quebecers could put aside the supposed cultural threats and simply say, "What is best for the education of our children?" With the political, cultural and social implications of educational change in Quebec, the government leaders are forced to do a tightrope balancing act that requires more than sensitivity and intelligence. It is hoped that the present Minister of Education has the "savoir-faire" of piloting educational change through the rocky English channel of Quebec.

Mark W. Waldron

A Haven in the Hills



The Wales Home of Richmond, Quebec, an institution for elderly Protestants which is widely known throughout the Eastern Townships, is an excellent example of a home for the aged which serves its function with distinction.

Recent articles in the news media have brought to light the atrocious living conditions experienced in several of the homes for the aged in the Province of Quebec. We hope that this article on the Wales Home in Richmond will provide a descriptive sketch of one of our province's model institutions.

The Wales Home is situated about one mile north of Richmond on the St. Francis River. Richmond is located in the Appalachian Region

about 25 miles north of Sherbrooke on Route 22. The town is on the C.N.R. mainline from Montreal to Sherbrooke and from Sherbrooke to Quebec and in bygone days was a real hub of rail transportation. Now its main function is as a farming community with light service industries.

The site of the Home allows the residents to have a picturesque view of the surrounding wooded hills and rolling farmland uninterrupted by advancing civilization. The view afforded from the home is sure to remind the residents of their lives in the hills of the region — hills which they cursed while they were working them; hills which they grew lonesome for if they left them for any length of time.

The Wales Home was founded in 1920. It originated through the will of the late Horace Pettes Wales who bequeathed his residence, farm, and estate to the four Protestant ministers of the region for the purpose of founding a home for Protestant old people. Mr. Wales was a successful Richmond merchant who was quite well-to-do and owned 500 acres of farmland surrounding the present home.

Mr. Wales' will gave a free hand to these four men and they associated themselves with a number of businesses and planned a campaign to raise funds. A Committee on Organization was formed and they decided that there was a need for an institution to serve the whole Eastern Townships rather

han just the Richmond district. The campaign was most successful and a total of \$175,000 was raised. The Committee aimed to secure funds for the buildings with a surplus to form an endowment fund of \$250,000.

The existing residence on the farm, though substantial in size, was not adequate to house 40 patients — the number decided on by the committee. The Home was completed and the first resident admitted in March, 1922. Since then, with donations from many generous sources, the Wales Home has been expanded and renovated to accommodate 242 senior citizens, both men and women.

The Wales Home is unique in many ways. Besides running an institution for the aged, it also runs a very profitable farm which is operated as a separate entity by a manager, his assistant, and two red men. Unlike many homes for the aged, once a person is admitted he is cared for till death. It also has 10 apartments rented out to elderly couples who are able to care for themselves. From our knowledge this aspect is a first in the Province of Quebec and has been tried with success in a home for retired Anglican ministers at Beamsville, Ontario.

As previously mentioned, the home accommodates 242 persons and is staffed with 35 nurses and nurse's aides, 35 domestics, plus four men who operate the farm unit. Eighty-eight beds are in an infirmary for those residents who require constant supervision or those who require medical attention. There is a registered nurse on duty 24 hours a day. A doctor is at the Home for

half a day every day and is on call for the remainder of the time. The medicaments for each patient are stored separately thus preventing errors in the administration of the medicines.

There are 134 beds available for ambulatory patients. These patients are more or less able to take care of themselves physically. There is, however, a nurse or nurse's aide in each section to provide assistance when required. Should one of these patients require constant physical attention, he is moved to the infirmary.

Twenty beds are available in 10 apartments for couples who are still self-sufficient. These patients run their apartments as their own and must prepare their own meals with the exception that they may eat the main meal served at noon in the dining room. These apartments are furnished with complete kitchen and cooking facilities.

The main criteria for entrance to the Wales Home is that the applicant must be a resident of the Eastern Townships and a member of a Protestant faith. This region covers the area described by the Richelieu, St. Lawrence and Chaudière Rivers and the U.S. border. The application is then studied by the Board of Governors and, if the application is accepted, the board rate is set and the applicant's name is placed on a waiting list. The rates for board vary according to the financial situation of the applicant. If the patient has no source of income other than his old age pension, part of the pension is claimed by the Home and the remainder is given to the resident to spend as he chooses. If the patient is unable to

spend his allowance, it is kept in trust for him by the Home. If the resident has no relatives or money for funeral expenses, they are taken care of by the Wales Home Corporation.

The residents are given single or double rooms at the discretion of the Matron. Washroom facilities are shared by adjoining rooms. Some rooms have been completely furnished by various charitable organizations; plaques to this effect are mounted on the doors to these rooms. The apartments, however, must be furnished by the occupants. Each is equipped with a stove, a refrigerator and wall-to-wall carpeting and drapes, although each differs in decor.

The ambulatory residents have lounges equipped with stove, refrigerator and television. The refrigerators are stocked with fruit juices, bread and milk allowing the residents to enjoy in-between meal snacks. The lounges also have large windows with views overlooking the St. Francis River and the hills beyond.

Residents are entertained every Friday afternoon at tea by one of a number of volunteer groups such as the Women's Auxiliaries and remembered in many ways by the Women's Institutes of the surrounding area — Lennoxville, Sherbrooke and Richmond. These groups also sponsor activities such as bingos, card parties and slide or film shows. One group each month is selected to hold a birthday party in honour of all the residents celebrating birthdays in that month and small gifts are presented to these residents.

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Top right: Miss B. Miller and Dr. Dykemen
at the Manning Wing Nursing Station.
Centre: Miss Myrtle Manning in her
oom in the Manning Wing.
Bottom right: Residents of the Wales
Home enjoying their noon meal.



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One of the key recreation features
of the Home is a fairly large library
which is situated in a quiet corner
of the original building. It contains
hundreds of magazines, paperbacks,
and various types of novels, and
is being constantly enlarged due to
numerous donations. The books
are neatly shelved by topic but are
not numbered or catalogued as there
is no librarian and the patients are
free to use or borrow the books
as they wish.



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There is also a hospitality shop run
by the Richmond Women's
Auxiliary which is open every
Tuesday and Friday, and here the
residents can purchase cigarettes,
tobacco and other such items.

very Sunday a church service is
held in the large lounge section
of the Wales Home. The service
is for all residents and is conducted
by a minister of each denomination
on an alternating basis. As well a
small chapel has recently been built
for those who wish to have a quiet
place for meditation. A small altar
has been installed and personal



ommunion services can be conducted here when desired.

The kitchen facilities of the Wales Home contain the best in modern equipment. All meals are prepared by two chefs and a helper who serve 300 settings per meal. At each meal a main dish is served, but there is also an alternate choice for those who do not prefer the main dish. There is a third choice which is poiled eggs for those who do not want either of the main dishes.

The laundry facilities have just been renovated and updated and is free to staff and patients. It consists of two large sets of commercial washers and dryers and is staffed by three permanent employees and one part-time employee who helps with the extra ironing. Through efficient organization, the sheets and laundry are changed on an alternating basis so that the laundry room staff are not overworked on any specific day of the week.

As well there is a general maintenance room staffed by three men who are responsible for the general maintenance and upkeep of the buildings.

Another facility is the sewing room which is staffed on a part time basis and here all mending and sewing jobs are done for the patients and the Home itself.

The Wales Farm which is run in conjunction with the Wales Home is approximately 550 acres in size and is mainly a dairy enterprise. The dairy herd consists of 122 head of purebred registered Holsteins of

which 80 are milking and 24 are heifers. The farm supplies 40 gallons of milk per day to the Home and ships the remainder of the milk by bulk to Guaranteed Pure Milk in Montreal. The farm has a quota of 66,000 lb. per month.

the aged. Also the Farm serves a public relations role for the Wales Home as the Wales Home Farm is a well known exhibitor at the local county fairs throughout the Eastern Townships. The Farm's two-year-old Holstein bull has won



Mr. Elmer Crack, Farm Manager, and his prize bull.

The main purpose of the farm unit is to supply the Wales Home with milk, vegetables, dairy products and maple syrup. The Farm, however, serves another important purpose — to provide the residents of the Wales Home with a rural farm environment of which they are familiar rather than a strict institutional environment which is commonplace to most homes for

Grand Champion ribbons at all the fairs entered this past summer and is highly prized by Mr. Elmer Crack, the farm manager. Mr. Crack feels that the reputation which has been gained by exhibiting the herd has done much to publicize the Wales Home throughout the Townships.

The farm unit is managed by Mr. Crack plus three hired men.

The soil is not ideal — it is a clay and clay loam mixture. The land is very rocky and hilly; however, Mr. Crack makes full use of soil testing procedures to develop his program of heavy fertilization. As a result his crop yields are well

the farming operation is at a minimum.

The sugarbush is quite a large scale operation which produces about 250 gallons of syrup per year, of which 125 gallons is supplied to

that is one of the most outstanding in the Eastern Townships. Now that the reputation for production and showmanship of the dairy herd has been established and with the use of artificial insemination with top quality bulls, the calves from the Wales Home herd are in top demand and command a premium price.



Despite modern technology, Peggy and Prince prove invaluable in the bush operation on the Wales Home Farm.

above average in spite of the adverse conditions.

The machinery on the farm is adequate and quite up-to-date. The farm also keeps two horses which are necessary for the woodlot and sugarbush operation. The woodlot is about 250-300 acres and serves mainly as a spare time enterprise during the fall and winter months when the labour requirement for

the Home and the remainder is sold to local clientele. Approximately 2,500 trees are tapped and buckets are used as the land is too hilly for an efficient pipeline operation.

The farm unit has undergone a complete changeover in the past five years since Mr. Crack became farm manager. Mr. Crack over the past two years has built up a purebred registered Holstein herd

We were impressed by our tour of the institution given by Mrs. M. J. Armstrong, the Matron, Mrs. Farley, the Assistant Matron, and by Mr. Crack, the Farm Manager. The staff were very receptive to our interest in the Wales Home. The environment is modern, comfortable and efficient while it succeeds in escaping the rigidity of a hospital regime. The Home provides "extras" that many homes for the elderly cannot supply and the residents seem to be quite happy. The average age is 78.5. The oldest is 98 and there are several more in their nineties. Several males work on the groundskeeping crew in the summer and many enjoy inspecting the dairy herd. The Wales Home certainly created a favourable impression on our minds and exploded the tales of morbid conditions existing in some institutions for elderly people. Perhaps the powers-that-be would do well to examine this particular institution and use it as a model for future institutions. However, it is the staff and the people in the surrounding communities that make this institution a success rather than money and buildings.

Brian Matthew,
Wayne Patterson,
Agr. '71.

Drying in Early Spring of Ploughed and Unploughed Land

In late April and early May in southern Quebec you may have seen that ploughed fields dry more quickly than fields left in stubble. We have noticed this a number of times where one half of a field was ploughed and the other half not ploughed. The difference in drying was not due to different drainage or different soils because the strips were side by side.

If a ploughed field dries earlier, it can be worked earlier. Early seeding of cereals is very important to us in Quebec. One day earlier means one more bushel of oats, one week gives seven extra bushels.

So we wanted to check the soil water contents to see whether ploughed soils were really drier than unploughed soils. If this were true to a depth of at least four to six inches, it would mean fall ploughed land could be worked earlier in the spring. We also wanted to find out why ploughed land dried faster.

Three different fields on the Macdonald College Farm were sampled in April 1969 and three others in April 1970. In each case ploughed and unploughed land existed side by side. Water contents were measured on samples taken from 0-3, 3-6 and 6-12 inches during four or five weeks after disappearance of the snow.

In both years ploughed sandy and clay soils dried faster than the unploughed areas. But for the medium-textured loam in both years, the unploughed surface dried faster. Here are some of the results.

The net amount of water lost during all days when the soil was drying is shown in Table I. The results are given in this way to eliminate the influence of the several rains which wetted the soil during this time.

Table 1. Net Inches of Water Lost During Drying Days

Depth	Ploughed	Unploughed
Clay soil, April 14 to May 25, 1969		
0-3"	0.62	0.33
3-6"	0.15	0.12
6-12"	0.12	0.10
Sand, April 14 to May 25, 1969		
0-3"	0.60	0.34
3-6"	0.83	0.39
6-12"	0.25	0.46
Loam, April 4 to May 23, 1969		
0-3"	0.19	0.50
3-6"	0.24	0.41
6-12"	0.16	0.23

The results in 1970 confirmed the previous year's measurements. The clay and sandy soils lost water faster when ploughed. But the unploughed surface of the loam lost water faster.

In addition to the drier surface, which allowed a tractor to get on the land earlier, the lower water contents of the ploughed soils allowed faster heating of the soil. This would mean earlier germination of seeds. Some soil temperature readings at one inch below the soil surface are shown in Table II.

There are three possible reasons for the lower water content of the ploughed land: 1) more of the sun's energy is absorbed by the rough ploughed surface; 2) more water vapour is carried away by wind or turbulent air created by the rough surface; or 3) less water is conducted up to the surface soil from the subsoil by the looser ploughed soil.

We measured net radiation, i.e., the

amount of energy from the sun absorbed by the surface. The ploughed surface had only three or four percent more, not enough to account for the larger water loss. Calculations show that extra turbulence from the ploughed surface is not large enough to carry away enough water vapour to explain the difference.

We, therefore, concluded that ploughing loosens the soil and breaks the capillary pores, which conduct water up from the subsoil. The bulk density, that is the weight of a unit volume of soil, was lower for the ploughed than for the unploughed clay and sand. With less water moving up, the surface can dry more rapidly. This explains the observations in Table I that the water lost from the 6-12" can be greater in the unploughed soil.

The bulk density of the ploughed loam was almost as great as that of the unploughed loam. This probably explains in part why the ploughed surface did not dry faster. But we still do not know the full explanation.

One of the reasons, then, for the observed advantages of fall ploughing is earlier drying in the spring. This is one part of the management system which leads to earlier seeding. Other parts include surface and sub-surface drainage to remove water, and ridging soil to absorb more of the sun's radiation. These problems continue to interest us.

Prof. B. P. Warkentin,
Dept. of Soil Science.

TABLE II. SOIL TEMPERATURE READINGS AT 1" DEPTH

Date, 1969	Clay		Sand	
	Ploughed	Unploughed	Ploughed	Unploughed
April 16	55	53	56	54
April 21	57	54	58	55
May 15	64	63	65	62

vitamin and the Common Cold

Recently much publicity has been given to vitamin C (ascorbic acid) and its role in the prevention and treatment of the common cold.

As we are aware, ascorbic acid is necessary in small amounts to prevent scurvy. The Canadian Dietary Standard recommends a daily intake of 20 milligrams from birth to seven years, and 30 mg. for everyone over seven years of age. This amount will prevent scurvy, and can be obtained by eating one serving of citrus fruit or fruit juice, or vitaminized apple juice each day. Many other foods such as tomatoes, raw leafy vegetables, white potatoes, broccoli, strawberries, and cantaloupe also contain ascorbic acid, but in lesser amounts.

It is being argued, however, that although 30 mg. of ascorbic acid is sufficient to prevent scurvy, the body may require larger amounts for optimum health. This belief is based on the idea that man's early ancestors may have been able to synthesize the vitamin C they needed in their own bodies. Indeed, today, most animals, excepting man and the other primates, do produce their own vitamin C. As man evolved, however, he simplified his body machinery, and lost the ability to synthesize ascorbic acid. He then had to rely on diet to supply his ascorbic acid. His diet began to include more meat, and less plants,

but through mutation, he was able to survive on much less ascorbic acid than was originally supplied by a diet composed entirely of raw plant foods.

On this basis, Dr. Linus Pauling in his book, "Vitamin C and the Common Cold"*¹, advocates a daily intake of 1 to 3 grams of ascorbic acid, an amount 30 to 100 times greater than that recommended by the Canadian Dietary Standard. Such quantities are impossible to obtain from a normal diet. Consequently it would be necessary to take ascorbic acid supplements in the form of pills or granules, in order to meet these demands.

Dr. Pauling says that 1 to 3 grams of ascorbic acid, taken daily will prevent the onset of a cold. If, however, one should occur, he recommends an intake of up to 10 grams per day taken at the first sign of the cold, and continued until the symptoms disappear (usually within a few days).

At the present time, experimental evidence to support the role of ascorbic acid in preventing and treating the common cold is scanty. Most of the studies reported on have been carried out under poorly controlled conditions, using an insufficient number of subjects, so that statistically significant results have not been demonstrated.

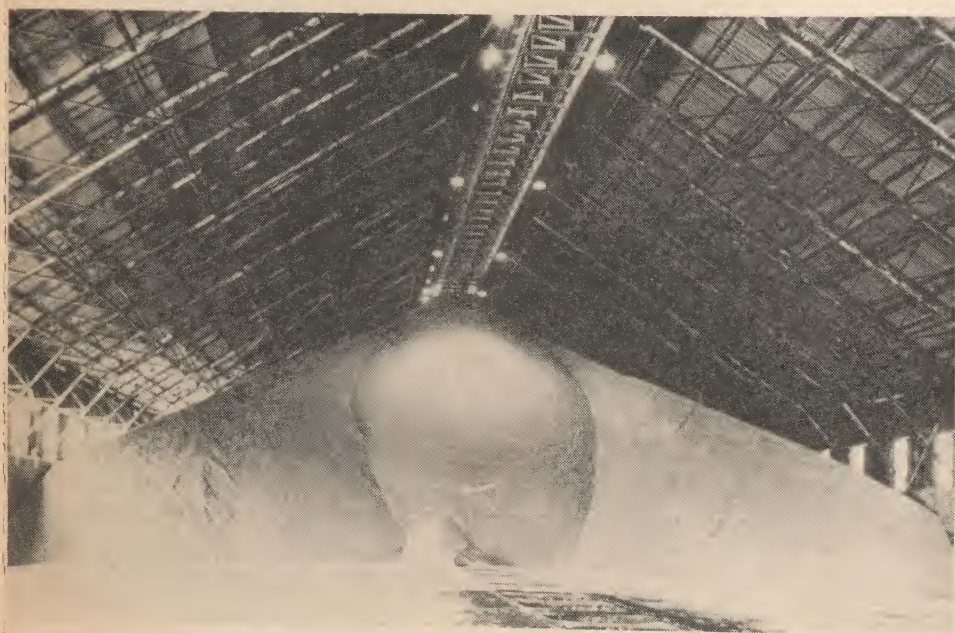
While ascorbic acid has always been considered harmless, it is necessary to study further its effects on both normal and diseased persons. When large amounts of ascorbic acid are consumed, that which is not needed by the body is excreted in the urine. Abnormally high doses might, therefore, affect persons with urinary tract diseases, and give false readings as to the sugar content of the urine of persons with diabetes.

In summary then, while some evidence does suggest that ascorbic acid may have a beneficial effect in the prevention and treatment of colds, much more experimental work must be done before any definite conclusions are reached. In the meantime, let's continue to drink fruit juice each day, and just wait and see. It would be a wonderful solution though, wouldn't it?

Marian Ho,
M.Sc., II

*Pauling, L. 1970, Vitamin C and the Common Cold. W. H. Freeman and Company, San Francisco.

In Retrospect



It is said that all good things must come to an end. This was the thought running through my mind when, in December, I said farewell to Queensland's warm summer days and said hello again to Quebec's frosty winter. Yes, that year of study and adventure in Australia's sunshine state is now over. It is time to look at the trip in retrospect and evaluate. What did I gain? Was the effort worthwhile?

In short, the year was an education in itself and its benefits are far greater than I had expected. Consider the academic aspects for example. Many people ask if studying the agriculture of a tropical and sub-tropical environment is of much use to someone living in Quebec. The answer is yes. Granted, examining the growth characteristics of sorghum does

not have particular application, and in this respect it is difficult to isolate specific items that were of direct relevance to Quebec. But exploring the principles behind dryland farming or discovering why the Aussies depend on pastures rather than lot feeding for beef cattle has direct value — it broadens one's agricultural background. This is more than merely satisfying a curiosity about agriculture in a different environment. For one thing, it stimulates the imagination. For another, it gives a greater understanding of many agricultural principles used throughout the world.

Some unique features of Queensland allow the student to gain a wide view of agriculture on the world scene. I have previously mentioned the wide diversity of

climates, soil types and natural vegetation to be found in the state. Thus, cropping conditions of specific areas are often quite similar to those found in many countries. Although one cannot hope to learn all aspects of tea growing in Ceylon or tropical pasture production in Central America by going to Queensland, it's the next best thing to being there. This feature is not limited to crop production. Consider tea. The high quality tea we drink comes from the young leaves of a tea bush or hedge. In most countries, the leaves are hand picked or plucked as labour is quite cheap. But tea can be grown in Queensland and harvested by new mechanical pickers that shear off the very young leaves from the hedge. The question arises, should Australia, an industrial nation, compete with smaller nations which depend in part on the export of this product? A parallel situation exists with sugar cane. While it is quite possible to study this aspect of world agriculture right here at home, most students, like myself, don't do so until they are exposed to it in the way I was. Yes, a year in Queensland can do a lot for one's agricultural background.

When reviewing the benefits of the trip, one item that immediately comes to mind is my now increased desire to see and know more of Canada. This may sound odd, but it really isn't. I left feeling that I knew as much about our country as most other Canadians know, and I was perhaps right in this assumption. But after being quizzed several

Top left: This species is well named the bottle tree. Bottom left: Bulk raw sugar awaits shipment from a Queensland seaport.

Right: Aboriginal painting in an outback cave.

times on aspects of our history, economic policy, gross national product, area of arable land and many other such items, I decided that my knowledge of Canada was not quite up to par.

Many aspects of Australia were quite fascinating mainly because I was unfamiliar with them. Australia's history and the culture of her native people, the Aborigines, is a good example. History has never been my subject. It always seemed boring, of little practical value and for historians only. Consequently, it was never studied with much enthusiasm — quite the opposite. But to my surprise, I was developing a real interest in Australia's past. And sometime later I discovered that our own heritage was just as exciting, if not more so. Suffice to say that two books dealing with our past are now sitting on my desk.

Of course, I now have a greater appreciation for many other things here in Quebec. Our drastic change in seasons, while it doesn't go unnoticed, is often taken for granted. Or the taste of maple syrup in the spring. Or snow. It was even good to see snow again — for a while. Many other overseas students in Queensland also seemed to take for granted certain aspects of their homes. On one occasion, a slide presentation was organized with the intention that everyone would bring along a few photos of home. It didn't work this way — no one had any slides of his own country. Were you leaving for Australia, would you make sure you had a picture of the countryside, a street in Montreal, or even a barn? Neither did I. However, almost everyone had an elaborate set of slides from another country — pictures of little day to day things that were of interest to everyone. And an Aussie had some beautiful shots of Canada.

Seeing Canada as others see us was an experience too. Say Canada, and the first image that comes to an Aussie mind is one of ice and snow — many feet deep and lasting

for most of the year. Maybe this is understandable. When suffering from the extremely low temperatures of mid-winter we occasionally get a weather report from Florida or Jamaica describing the 80 and 90 degree days being enjoyed there. Similarly, a few Canadian weather reports — but only those from the extreme part of winter — find their way down under. Suppose you are living in a climate warmer than ours and your house doesn't have central heating, nor is it insulated. Temperatures of 50 are cold, and anything below 45 is unbearable. What image would a report of -35 make in your mind?

But snow and ice is only the first

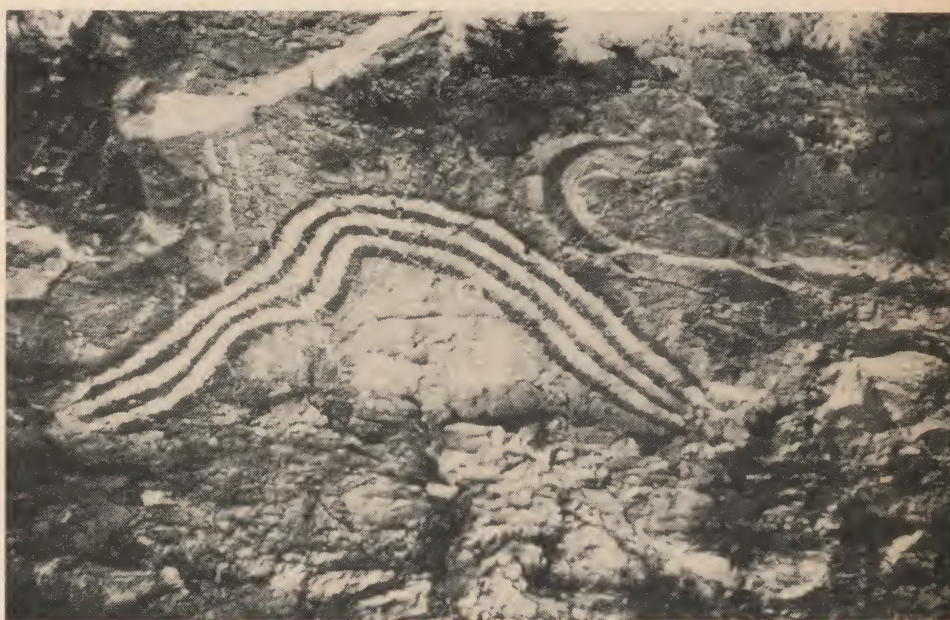


image that comes to mind. Most Australians know much more about Canada than most Canadians know about Australia. There seems to exist a feeling of isolation among many Aussies, particularly those of college age. One fellow described it as, "We're down here and the rest of the world is up there." Consequently, most young people have a desire to go overseas and many do so. Those who wish to continue their education by taking a higher degree often do so in North America or Europe. Other people might take a working holiday that lasts from a few months to several years. And a few take a brief look at many of the world's major cities in two or three weeks. "Sure I've been to Montreal. Spent six hours there in 1967!"

Airlines, steamship companies and their travel agencies are well aware

of this desire to go abroad. Consequently, special flights, group bookings and other such programs are abundant. If he tries, any Aussie under 26 years can probably get transportation around the world for \$700. A price like that is a good incentive. And this situation is of very definite value to Australia. The school-teacher who works for two years in Canada, or the Ph.D. student who studies in the U.K., or the fellow who spends a working holiday in Europe before returning down under to take over the family farm, these people all return to Australia with many new ideas in their own field and a wealth of experience. When commenting about a small farm

innovation on a Queensland station, the owner quietly replied, "Yes, I picked up this idea in Italy." And that's good.

As I re-evaluate the trip and consider the benefits it gave, I wish many other students could enjoy similar exchange studies. I'm not thinking particularly of tours to Australia or other countries, although they certainly have their advantages, but even exchanges within Canada could be useful. Couldn't a student from eastern Canada benefit by spending a year in a prairie university? We are seeing a trend toward student exchange programs, systems devised to help and encourage students do this very thing. Let's make sure this trend continues.

Art McElroy
Agr. '71.

The Family

Farm

Published in the interests
of the farmers of the province
by the Quebec Department of
Agriculture and Colonization

Farm Improvement Program

With the aim of increasing the profitability of farms and encouraging land and soil improvements, the Department of Agriculture and Colonization provides farmers with an opportunity to make use of heavy machinery at a reduced charge. Two choices are offered: the subsidization option and the self-financing option. A beneficiary may not, however, take advantage of more than one option in a single year.

The Subsidization Option

Under this option, up to 40 hours of effective work per year may be subsidized, the said work to be administered by the Farm Development Service and the contribution of the Department of Agriculture and Colonization to be approximately 60 per cent. Maximum rates chargeable under this option are decided by the general Purchasing Service (table of rental rates) and will be used to establish the respective contributions of the farmer and the Department of Agriculture and Colonization.

Beneficiaries may be any farm operator who cultivates on his own account one or more paying or potentially paying farms either as owner or as tenant under a notarial lease.

To be eligible, the farm operator must fill in the proper form for the subsidization option, obtainable from his local agricultural informa-

tion office, describing his land and livestock and the work to be carried out. These documents will then be studied to decide whether the work requested can be subsidized.

Nature of the work and conditions:

1) This program for the rapid improvement of farmlands applies only to projects with a genuinely agricultural object such as: clearing, removal of stumps and stones, levelling, mounding up lands, surface drainage (dead furrows, water furrows and ditches, deep ploughing, harrowing of land ploughed at least 18 inches deep, and construction of farm roads and roads leading into maple bushes and woodlots which are an integral part of the agricultural enterprise.

2) Having obtained an operating permit from the Department of Agriculture and Colonization, the farmer and the contractor must sign an agreement specifying the charge for the machinery to be used, the approximate number of hours, the nature of the work and the method of payment.

3) The farmer's contribution is compulsory and the Department of Agriculture and Colonization will pay the contractor the established subsidy after the work has been approved.

4) No work will be subsidized if the contractor does not hold an operating permit from the Department of Agriculture and Colonization.

5) When undertaking work, the contractor must confine himself to farmers whose names appear on the eligibility list which will be transmitted to him by the local office. He must also acquaint the Department's representative at the beginning of each week with his time-table of work.

This program does not apply to projects of the following type, which are the responsibility of the Agricultural Hydraulics (Drainage) division: 1) Digging and filling in underdrainage ditches;

2) Construction of farm ponds;

3) Digging municipal watercourses and spreading the excavated earth.

In addition, any work detrimental to the conservation of the soil or efficient drainage is definitely prohibited. Night work of any kind is not allowed.

Responsibilities: 1) The farmer must supervise the work, insist on a reasonable output from the machinery, and suspend any operations which are being carried out in adverse, unproductive or otherwise inefficient conditions.

2) Anyone making a false statement is guilty of a serious infraction and is liable to heavy penalties.

3) In the event of a dispute over any matter or subject connected with this program or any document relating to it, the decision of the Department of Agriculture and Colonization shall be final.

Failing proof of carelessness or culpable negligence on their part, the Department of Agriculture and Colonization and its officials or employees cannot be held responsible for any damage or accident which may be connected directly or indirectly with the carrying out of these projects.

These conditions cancel and supersede all former ones; if necessary they may be altered in the interests of agriculture and land settlement. This program replaces the previous assistance policy and will remain in force until further notice.

The Self-Financing Option

Work done under this option is administered by the Farm Improvement Service and is particularly intended for farmers anxious to make more rapid progress. In principle, no limit to the number of hours is set and the farmer may retain the services of a contractor of his own choice who has machinery acceptable to the Department of Agriculture and Colonization.

Maximum rates chargeable under this program are decided by the General Purchasing Service (table of rental rates) and will be used to establish the contribution of the Department of Agriculture and Colonization.

Beneficiaries may be any farmer, as defined in the Farm Improvement Act, i.e. any owner or holder, under a location ticket, of a farm on which he lives permanently and the cultivation or operation of which for purposes connected with agriculture is his principal occupation.

To be eligible, the farmer must fill in the proper form (self-financing) obtainable from his local agricultural information office, describing his land and livestock and the work to be carried out.

He must also submit a complete and detailed program of land improvements which he wants to carry out over a period of not more than five years. These documents will then be studied to decide whether the work requested can be subsidized. If so, the rate of subsidization will be 50 per cent of the first 100 hours, 35 per cent for the next 100 hours, and 25 per cent for any further hours.

The farmer will pay to the contractor immediately the total cost of the work performed. Upon receipt of the duly approved reports, accompanied by proof of payment from the contractor, the department will send the farmer the subsidy to which he is entitled. The said subsidy will be based on the charge made by the contractor, which must not exceed the rate set by the General Purchasing Service.

Nature of the work and conditions:

1) This program for the rapid improvement of farmlands applies only to projects with a genuinely agricultural object such as: clearing, removal of stumps and stones, levelling, mounding up lands, surface drainage (dead furrows, water furrows and ditches) deep ploughing, harrowing of land ploughed at least 18 inches deep, and construction of farm roads and roads leading into maple bushes and woodlots which are an integral part of the agricultural enterprise.

2) Having obtained the Department's consent, the farmer and the contractor must sign an agreement specifying the hourly charge for the machinery to be used, the approximate number of hours, and the nature of the work.

3) When undertaking work, the contractor must confine himself to farmers whose names appear on an eligibility list available at the local agricultural information office. He must also acquaint the Department's representative at the beginning of each week with his time-table of work.

This program does not apply to projects of the following type, which are the responsibility of the Agricultural Hydraulics (Drainage) division: 1) Digging and filling in underdrainage ditches; 2) Construction of farm ponds; 3) Digging municipal watercourses and spreading the excavated earth.

In addition, any work detrimental to the conservation of the organic matter of the soil or efficient drainage is definitely prohibited. Night work of any kind is not allowed.

Responsibilities are: 1) The farmer must supervise the work, insist on a reasonable output from the machinery, and suspend any operations which are being carried out in adverse, unproductive or otherwise inefficient conditions.

2) Anyone making a false statement is guilty of a serious infraction and is liable to heavy penalties

3) In the event of a dispute over any matter or subject connected

with this program or any document relating to it, the decision of the Department of Agriculture and Colonization shall be final.

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These conditions cancel and supersede all former ones; if necessary they may be altered in the interests of agriculture and land settlement. This program replaces the previous assistance policy and will remain in force until further notice.

"Herbicides — Recommendations '71"

The Quebec Weed Control Committee, an advisory body of the Quebec Plant Productions Council, has just published a 95-page booklet entitled "Herbicides - Recommendations 1971."

This publication deals with all aspects of herbicide use, including a classification of weed-killers, notes on their use, and the mode of operation and utilization of equipment for applying them.

The recommendations cover weeds in bedding soils and in grain crops, grasslands, fruits, vegetables, and industrial crops, and the different herbicide treatments for controlling them.

This guide, which also contains a list of the degree of sensitivity of various weeds to herbicides will be a valuable aid to those who are responsible for advising farmers on the judicious use of these products. It was prepared by 14 weed specialists who are either working in this field or are members of the weed control committee.

The 1971 Agricultural Merit Contest

The minister of Agriculture and Colonization, Mr. Normand Toupin, announces the holding of this year's Agricultural Merit Competition.

In accordance with the regulations, the 1971 contest will be held in the second of the competitions' territories, comprising the following electoral districts: Arthabaska, Bagot, Brome, Compton, Drummond, Iberville, Missisquoi, Nicolet, Richelieu, Richmond, Rouville, Shefford, Sherbrooke, Stanstead, St-Hyacinthe, Wolfe, and Yamaska.

Farmers wishing to take part in the contest may obtain entry forms from their agricultural information offices. The form must be filled in carefully and accurately, signed by the applicant and turned over to the agricultural representative to be countersigned by him before it is accepted by the competition secretary. The duly completed form must reach the Information Service of the Department of Agriculture and Colonization, 200 Chemin Ste-Foy, Quebec, before the first of June, 1971.

The 1971 Pioneering (settler's) Merit Competition is also scheduled to be held in the first of its territories, comprising all the counties in the centre of the province.

Modern is the Key Word on this Farm

Mr. Harold Merson's farming enterprise at Ormstown is undergoing sweeping changes. The usual style of cattle feeding is being replaced by zero grazing; a huge barn with cubicles and a milking parlour — involving a considerable financial investment — is going to replace the old barn, which will in future be used to house the heifers.

The 159-acre farm, all under the plough, is made up of clay soil and loam soil to about equal extents. The tile drainage laid in 1969 under 64 acres is only the beginning of land improvements planned by Mr. Merson. Applications of lime and fertilizer are made every year according to soil requirements; manure is applied in liquid form.

The 50 acres of hayfields produced a very uneven yield. Mr. Merson has to buy about 70 tons of hay a year. He considers it more profitable to use the land to grow vegetables for a cannery (22 acres of peas and 36 acres of sweet corn in 1970). Silage corn occupies 28 acres and rye 18. The yields of all these crops are uneven.

At one end of the barn there are two concrete-stave silos for ensil-

g the corn. Hay is stored in the
g mow of the pointed-arched
arn.

he Holstein-type herd comprises
bull and six purebred cows, 46
rade cows and 26 head of young
tock. The herd has had the benefit
f the Dairy Herd Analysis Service
nce January 1970. The average
annual milk yield is 9,000 pounds
er cow. The milk passes from
he milking parlour to the dairy
y pipe-line.

he farm machinery, which is in
eeping with the needs of the
enterprise, is suitably housed. The
ouse was modernized recently and
s amply spacious for the Merson
amily with one baby. Mrs. Merson
ooks after the calves, tends a
mall garden and sews. It looks
s though the new system of
arming operations which Mr.
Merson has introduced will help
o increase output and make the
arm as a whole more profitable,
nce it is working smoothly.

From the 1970 Agricultural Merit
Competition Reports.)

Falconcroft Farm

Profits are not the aim of Falcon-
croft farm at Saint-Sauveur in
Terrebonne county; it is operated
solely for the pleasure and satis-
faction of the owner, for whom
he improvement of Jersey cattle
o the highest possible degree
represents a philanthropic endeav-
our.

The genetic quality and hereditary
potential of its cattle have earned
this farm an international reputa-
tion. Mr. Lalonde, the manager of
the farm, is given most of the
credit for its success by the owner.

Although everybody is free to
attribute responsibility as he will,
it must also be admitted that this
hobby of Mr. John H. Molson is a
generous and handsome gesture
to all breeders.

The farm's 200 acres comprise 123
acres of hayfields, 25 of pasture,
10 of United corn, a garden of
two acres, and a woodlot of 40.
The arable land consists mostly of
light soil but there are 15 acres
of organic soil.

Lime and commercial fertilizers
are applied sparingly, the quantities
and formulas used depending on soil
analysis and crop requirements.
The manure is spread in the fall
on the hayfields and on the coming
season's corn land. Twenty acres
are underdrained and this land
is the best part of the pasturage,
which is subdivided by electric
fencing.

The hayfields gave a good yield.
Great care is taken with the quality
of the hay and artificial drying
is used. Loads of hay bales covered
with a tarpaulin on slatted-bottomed
trailers are subjected to a current
of hot air until their moisture
content has been reduced to a
suitable percentage.

As regards the buildings, nothing
is lacking that could facilitate the
men's work and add to the com-
fort of the animals. The strictest
cleanliness is insisted on every-
where and in every detail.

Although great emphasis is justi-
fiably placed on the Jersey herd,
it should be pointed out that this
is not the farm's only source of

income; the poultry department is
of some importance with 600
Dekalb hens, 2,000 Simetin pullets,
and 325 Nicolas turkeys. There
are also 20 beehives, an orchard
of 40 trees, and a maple bush
where 1,000 tappings are made.
These various branches of the
enterprise provide work for five
permanent employees.

The herd consists of a bull, 30
cows, and 19 head of young stock.
The uniformity of conformation
and quality of these animals would
almost lead one to believe that they
are the work of an artist. Falcon-
croft farm has always used sires
with the finest possible hereditary
potential for its herd. For example,
the bull Marlu Milestone Falcon —
which has now been sent to an
A.I. centre in Ontario — has an
index of plus 0.7 for milk produc-
tion and plus 5.4 for butyric fat
production based on the yields of
25 of his daughters in 15 herds
in comparison with their contem-
poraries. Of 26 daughters classified
for type, 5 are rated Excellent,
18 Very Good, and 3 Good Plus.
The A.I. Centre at St. Hyacinthe
has bought two of his descendants,
both classified V.G. for type and
now being progeny-tested for
their breeding value.

Perhaps an artist would say of
Falconbridge farm that it is a
miniature affair, recalling some of
Walt Disney's landscapes, where
a dreamland atmosphere has been
successfully created with the
aid of the little pale-blue, pointed
silos, the tiny hayfields hewn out
of the forest, and the delicate
Jerseys with their mild appearance.

(From the 1970 Agricultural Merit
Competition Reports.)

QWI

Abitibi North

Matagami: Roll call was name a famous or important Canadian woman and her accomplishments. Motto was swallow your pride occasionally; it is not fattening. Held election of officers. Mrs. Thompson accepted for a second term. Held a farewell party for one of our very interested members, Mrs. Montoo, who has taken up residence in Aylmer, Que.

Argenteuil

All Argenteuil county branches report submission of annual reports, election of officers and new programs either made up or to be made up shortly. Some meetings had been postponed due to bad weather. Brownsburg: Had a supper meeting where they welcomed two new members and presented 25-year pins to two members. Dalesville-Louisa: Had the drawing on their quilt. Frontier: Welcomed a new member and took membership in C.A.C. Lakefield: Sent a basket of fruit to a convalescing member and made arrangements for a joint baby shower with the W. A. Pioneer: Held a successful auction sale of home cooking, china and miscellaneous articles donated by members. Upper Lachute-East End: Took a membership in C.A.C.

Conaventure

Black Cape: Sixteen members answered the roll call by giving their age in French. Election of officers took place. Enjoyed scrambled words quiz. Matapedia: Capsules given to schools. All officers and conveners to serve another year. President's dinner

held. New Richmond West: Annual reports read. A quiz on detergents was held, also a think fast quiz. Meetings reported to Campbellton Graphic. Restigouche: Realized \$33 on sale of handmade quilt. Convener's items: Potatoes sent on Cuban Trip; Important Childhood memory; Household Hints. Money-raising project was "Collection of Dimes," in pockets of little aprons. Sold tickets on a surprise parcel, proceeds to go towards Pennies for Friendship.

Brome

Abercorn: Motion passed in favour of a CEGEP. Annual meeting held. Election of officers and conveners' reports heard. South Bolton: Annual meeting. Two new members and one former member joined. Sutton: Annual meeting was held.

Chateauguay-Huntingdon

Aubrey-Riverfield: A poem was read "This old world is in a hurry." A demonstration was given on gelatine desserts and homemade cream candy was judged. Good, used clothing was sent to Douglas Hospital and a basket of goodies to convalescent home in Howick. Dewittville: Mr. Baranowski, a teacher in the Chateauguay Valley Regional School, showed a coloured film "Song of the Night Lark" and described the nature of the inherited disease Cystic Fibrosis, as well as the treatment. Mrs. Donald Ednie, teacher in the special education department at Huntingdon Academy, described her work with children requiring special training. A successful Winter Carnival was sponsored at the Dewittville Rink. The racing was keen and a trophy was awarded to the winning broom-

ball team, namely the Huntingdon 4H Club in their game with the Howick 4H Club. Dundee: Group held a bee at a neighbour's home and tied a quilt. This quilt to be donated to the Unitarian Service Committee. Franklin Centre: A discussion was held on the Mary Stewart Collect and what it meant to be a member of the W.I. Shut-in members and elderly folk in the community were remembered with Valentines. A silent auction was held. A potluck supper followed by a social evening was held at the home of one of the members. Hemmingford: A member of the local school board spoke on her duties and responsibilities. A question and answer period followed. Held a successful card party. Howick: Preparations were made for the 60th anniversary in April. Huntingdon: Miss Carla Treggett, a teacher in the Chateauguay Valley Regional School, gave a most helpful talk on good nutrition. She distributed copies of the "Canada Food Guide" and booklets of recipes using evaporated milk and carried out a very interesting question and answer period. A memory quiz on TV advertisements was enjoyed. At this meeting a new plan for refreshments was introduced. The meetings called for 1:30 p.m. with dessert and coffee served at once. Ormstown: Mrs. Eleanor Geggie gave a very informative talk on glass.

Compton

Canterbury: Held card parties. Remembered senior citizens at three Homes in Bury. East Angus: A sample of the Eastern Townships plaid was on display. Articles read on "UNICEF Cards," "Remember When," "Canada Pays While U.S.A.

profits." A poem "Questions for 70" was also read. Twenty-five dollars taken to Lake Nursing Home. Guests were the County President, Mrs. Nugent and several members from Sawyerville. Saw slides on the International Peace Gardens and the Centennial Chairs. Mrs. Nugent read the history of the Peace Garden. Donated \$10 to Northern Canada Extension Fund. St. Clifton: Two minutes silence served for departed member. Memorial donation given to cemetery. Held supper to aid funds for school cafeteria. Celebrated 50th anniversary. Sawyerville: February meeting held in the School Cafeteria. The topic was Citizenship and the roll call was country of origin of a maternal ancestor. Reports of supper in aid of the school cafeteria proved that this was a very successful community project, raising over \$250 for the cafeteria funds. The President reminded all members to bring a parcel for the monthly drawing for the fruit and flower committee. Tea money was for the Quebec Extension Fund. A quiz on Canadian currency proved very interesting and was enjoyed by all. Scotstown: Members attended a Young Peoples Association meeting and heard an address on the Moral Social Development system used at the Alexander Galt Regional School. This address was given by Mr. Harry Brown, Guidance Counsellor of the Orange House. Gifts of fruit given to residents in a rest home.

Gaspe

Beauport: Newly organized branch with 24 members. Plans made and discussions held on summer sale and fall fair. Demonstration given by Mrs. Ivan McKoy on how to

make roses with Phentex. Sold tickets to add to funds. Poem read by publicity convener. Gaspe: Roll call was name a country abroad which has a Canadian Immigration Office. Tickets were sold on ceramic ashtray. Pennies for Friendship collected. Murdochville: Reports were given by conveners. Pennies for Friendship collected. Auction on jams and jellies held.

Gatineau

Aylmer East: Held annual meeting and election of officers. Conveners' reports read. Delegate appointed to County Convention. Program consisted of a reading by Miss Janet Riley from Federated News entitled "Postmark Ottawa." Rupert: Thirty-one articles of sewing and several articles of knitting done for Save the Children. Wright: Mystery box won by Mrs. George Derby. Five members had perfect attendance for the past year.

Megantic

Inverness: President of the group reported on a W.I. meeting she had attended in Belleville, Ont. A new member was welcomed. Kinnear's Mills: Details regarding a summer wedding were reported. Projects: Inverness has completed the writing of the history of the branch. Kinnear's Mills gave prizes in reading to Andrew Johnson Memorial High School in Thetford Mines.

Quebec

Valcartier: Annual meeting. The sum of \$50 was donated towards the four cemeteries. Gifts to be sent to 14 shut-ins and two sick people at

Easter. A vote of thanks was given to our outgoing president. Our Entertainment Convener read a poem and gave a talk on The Peace Garden.

Rouville

Abbotsford: Held a discussion on drugs. Heard a speaker on Dutch Xmas customs. A demonstration was given on dried flowers. Projects: Held a successful card party. Jars of jelly sent annually to Diet Dispensary. This has been done for many years. The first President, 1929, was in the chair to call upon the Nominating Committee to present the new slate of officers.

Richmond

Denison Mills: Conveners' reports showed a good year's work done. Heard a report of county projects. Proceeds of \$2 from mystery prize went to Sunshine Fund. Quilt blocks were given out for mauve flowered quilt. Gore: Eight members had perfect attendance for the past year. Each received a gift. A new member was welcomed. Ditty bags handed in. Linen brought in for Cancer Society. Held a white elephant sale. Donated \$25 to Cecil Butters Home. Richmond Hill: Collecting articles for ditty bags. Plans made for a variety sale. Members quilting on an embroidered quilt to be drawn for in the fall. Seeds to be bought for a baby rose plant to be judged in the fall. Making quilts for fire victims and needy families. Donated \$25 to the Cecil Butters Home. Donations were also given to the following funds: Blind, Cancer, Heart, Red Cross, March of Dimes, St. Francis Welfare Fund and Save the Children.

Mrs. Barr, Mrs. Robert, Mrs. Gaese, Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Gnasse, Mrs. Keddy and Mrs. McCadam, members of the Hemmingford W.I., enjoyed their day at the Salon of Agriculture last fall.



Richmond Young Women: Election of officers. Welcomed a new member, Mrs. N. Sullivan. Four members had perfect attendance. An item "Quebec a Strange Province" was read. Shipton: Heard annual reports and held installation of officers. Donated to the Cancer Society. Spooner Pond: Annual meeting. Reports were read. Delegates chosen for county convention and provincial convention. Installation of new officers and conveners held. Mrs. D. Biggs, new President, gave a short address and members sang the Hymn of All Nations. Quilt finished for Dixville Home, also one pair of matching pillow cases. Cards sent to members unable to attend meeting.

Shefford

Granby Hill: Annual meeting. Heard report of Board meeting and held a radio quiz. Waterloo-Warden: Annual meeting. Copies of "Federated News" distributed to members. Care package raffled. Donated \$50 to the Butters Home for Retarded Children. Five members had perfect attendance for year.

Sherbrooke

Ascot: Mrs. Frank Ingham, Publicity Convener, read parts of History of Ascot, 1939-1948, which members found very interesting. Report of county meeting was read by delegate, Mrs. M. C. Sewell. Belvedere: Members and their families enjoyed a family supper and a social evening. A money-raising project has been the making of a beautiful, large Shillcraft Handmade Rug. There will be a drawing for this. Brompton Road: Members worked at Cancer Station.

Card parties were held in members' homes with proceeds for W.I. Letter from Australian pen pal was read. A gift was sent to a hospitalized man. Lennoxville: This being the annual meeting, new officers were installed by the County President, Mrs. G. Cascadden.

Stanstead

Hatley: Made plans for a May fair, and received two gifts, a quilt made by Mrs. M. Roake, and a hand painting by Mrs. C. Lattim. Stanstead North: Arranged to send representatives to a meeting on revision of the Canadian constitution to be held at Sherbrooke.

Vaudreuil

Harwood: Education meeting and the motto was "A wise man will hear and increase learning." Guest speaker was Mrs. Petrie who is a Home Economics Teacher at Macdonald High School. She spoke about the home economics course that students can take. This broadened our views on just how much is being done to enlighten students on all kinds of home management, budgeting, etc., as well as sewing and cooking.

Conveners' Conference

The Federated Women's Institutes held a Conveners' Conference in Ottawa in March. Fifty-five delegates from across Canada attended. Five delegates from Quebec were present. Mrs. Clarke, F.W.I.C. Past President, Mrs. Fulton, President of F.W.I.C., Mrs. McLean, 1st. Vice-President of F.W.I.C. and all National Conveners were also present.

The guest speaker was Dr. Mark Waldron, Macdonald College, Que. who came (as one delegate expressed it) not to talk to us but with us on the theme, "How to aim for a bull's eye in a planned project."

The delegates felt they had learned a great deal, and that there was now a two-way system of communication. This workshop also seemed to bridge a gap between Provincial Conveners and those of National. A more detailed report will be given at the June Convention.

Annual Convention

This is the 60th Anniversary of Q.W.I. and a very special program is being planned worthy of this memorable year in our history, with interesting guest speakers, a tour of the college, the farm and the arboretum, and a 60th Anniversary Birthday Party! The Executive hopes for a large attendance to celebrate with us. Make your plans now to attend from June 21-24 at Macdonald College.

Iteve Casselman: National marketing legislation is the main topic of conversation in almost all agricultural circles. Some groups are in favour, while others feel it will not solve as many of the marketing problems as people are led to believe. One person who believes we have very little to gain from national marketing boards is Professor C. B. Haver of the Agricultural Economics Department at Macdonald College. Prof. Haver, perhaps you could outline why you have reservations about national marketing board legislation.

Prof. Haver: My reservations and disagreement with the marketing board proposal centres on means rather than ends of economic policy. I'm not against farmers as a group obtaining a high income or a higher income than they presently receive, but I object to marketing boards as a means of obtaining farmers' income objectives. I do not believe that national or regional marketing boards will improve the position of farmers, but such boards will aggravate the farm problem, postpone its solution, distort resource use and further, consumers will be worse off.

Casselman: What causes this?

Prof. Haver: National marketing boards create production and distribution monopolies or monopoly like arrangements to hopefully attain, then maintain abnormally high profits through restriction of resources employed and output produced. Marketing board monopolies by restricting entry and output divert farm resources from more to less important uses, thus distorting resource use and

reducing economic efficiency. For instance one of the devices used by marketing boards is quotas, milk quotas or acreage quotas. The benefits of the quota program of marketing or output restriction tend to be capitalized into the value of this privilege as has been the case with tobacco and milk. Thus the only people that are beneficiaries in the short run are the original receivers of the quota. When this quota is transferred on, these people want a price for it and thus the benefits of the program are dissipated. Because quotas and similar marketing restrictions reduce output and reduce the amount of resources used on the marketing board controlled product, the displaced resources will tend to move into other activities. Thus resources are diverted from more to less important uses. If a board does not control production and entry, benefits generated by board action will be competed out and the industry will only be normally profitable but consumers will be stuck with higher prices.

Casselman: All right now, guaranteed that this restricts the number of people entering into the business, for example, into tobacco production by that marketing board, but at the same time aren't we in a position where we are over-producing. So who really wants extra people getting into production?

Prof. Haver: Farming has been a free entry and exit occupation. The market tends to allocate who goes where, and what is produced. Admittedly there are some problems in a free market, but freely determined price guidelines are automa-

tically set on products and factors to determine what, where and how much to produce. However, marketing boards and similar political structures are not going to solve these problems as smoothly, as efficiently and as equitably and in addition they are going to create other problems and postpone a solution to the "farm problem." The marketing board which can effectively restrict entry or use of a resource possesses the power to raise prices and restrict consumption thereby exploiting consumers and injuring other producers by diverting resources by monopoly restrictions. If the marketing board cannot effectively control entry and output, the farmers producing the product will find themselves only normally profitable and operating at a higher price and lower output than would be the case without the board.

Casselman: Are you talking about an increase of price to the producer and consumer? Or one or the other?

Prof. Haver: I'm speaking of the producer end of it to start with. The object of creating marketing boards is to aid producers; hopefully to raise their prices and incomes. However, the legislation suggests that consumers would be aided by improved order and structure of the market and presumably consumers would be willing to pay a higher price for a steady high quality supply. The objective of producer oriented marketing boards, whether they be co-operatively controlled or government controlled almost invariably becomes one of trying to raise producer prices more and more and frankly they can only remain successful if they can keep on

raising prices and restricting production because the value of the privilege continually is capitalized or competed out.

Casselman: Now the consumer. With the national marketing board, let's say, is she going to see higher prices? Can she afford higher prices?

Prof. Haver: Well, whether she can afford higher prices is another question but the consumer of marketing board agricultural products be they milk, eggs, wheat, meats, fruits and so on, will pay prices that will be higher due to the action of marketing boards or the marketing boards won't be effective from the standpoint of producers. The farmer won't be satisfied unless the prices are higher and it is presumed that the higher prices won't appreciably diminish consumption by Canadian consumers. Further, the board may price Canadian producers out of the world market; the United States did this with cotton.

Casselman: Can national marketing boards be successful without teeth in regards to tariffs and to import restrictions which it seems that this legislation doesn't have at the moment?

Prof. Haver: I would surmise that the boards would soon find that — like the Canadian Wheat Board — they would have to control imports via permit as the Wheat Board does. Otherwise how would the marketing board regulate the inflows into the Canadian market if the board established a price higher than the world price, higher than the price elsewhere plus the cost of transportation.

Casselman: Can national marketing considers putting import duties on agricultural products, do they worry more about non agriculture perhaps taking into account the effect on automobile parts. In other words is agriculture sort of considered second rate?

Prof. Haver: No, I wouldn't say that. Our tariff structure historically was set up to produce tax revenues and protect certain infant industries including agriculture. I suspect that the tariff setting and quota setting and so on that's carried on is often quite separate from policy problems relating to farmers as producers or consumers as consumers.

Casselman: Why do you think beefmen are against national marketing legislation?

Prof. Haver: The cattlemen are in the main concerned that a marketing board would affect their freedom of action, their ability to adjust and they just don't need such market meddling to make satisfactory incomes. Cattlemen have traditionally been pretty much free enterprise thinkers and felt that they could resolve most of their problems through an open market. They happen to be producing a product that enjoys a considerable growth in terms of consumer demand. As people's incomes increase they tend to consume more beef and as population increases more beef is consumed. The cattlemen's interests would be best served if they were left out of the marketing board legislation. For that matter so would most other Canadian farmers and consumers.

Casselman: You'd consider them better off then without national marketing.

Prof. Haver: I would think a growth industry like the beef sector of the agricultural economy would fare best if it was relatively free of restraints because then it can adjust more rapidly than would be the case under government regulation.

Casselman: Would the broiler people have been better off with national marketing over the last three months when we had all the problems?

Prof. Haver: I don't think that any group of producers would be better off with national or provincial marketing boards in the last three months or in the next three months or the next three years or the next 20 years. I just don't think marketing boards are good for agriculture or good for consumers. They are temporarily palatable but not a solution to agriculture's problems.

Casselman: Are there any good points to the national marketing board proposal?

Prof. Haver: Short run benefits to privilege holders but I can see no long run advantages. There will be windfalls to quota and permit holders if production and marketing can be restricted. There would be benefits from reduced interprovincial and intraprovincial restraints. Regional or provincial boards such as the Canadian Wheat Board, milk boards, egg and poultry boards have been detrimental to the interests of the consumers in general and outside

provincial or regional producers. national marketing boards would at least reduce inter and intraprovincial inequalities but unfortunately they tend to create other detrimental effects.

Casselman: Have any other countries tried this?

Prof. Haver: Yes, the United States has had considerable experience with marketing boards and certain other countries have had experience with marketing boards. In so far as they are simply sales agencies and do not attempt to control production and allocate quotas, they have performed a useful function. But where their avowed purpose was to raise farmers' incomes through production control, they negated their potential usefulness. In the United States many of the boards have been liquidated or the courts have stripped them of their powers. In dairying, for instance, national milk marketing orders establish minimum regional prices but there are no quotas or entry restrictions as once was the case. Why should Canada move in a backward direction?

Casselman: Now we're talking about separate marketing boards from each province that are overlaid by a national system that would perhaps control production in each part of the country. Is this not what we need?

Prof. Haver: The demise of provincial or regional boards will be a step in the right direction but why substitute national boards when we need them like we need the plague, boards that will create and perpetuate monopoly privileges,

exploit consumers, distort use in other sectors of agriculture and postpone the solution to agriculture's problems.

Casselman: You're against the milk quotas that are now very extensive.

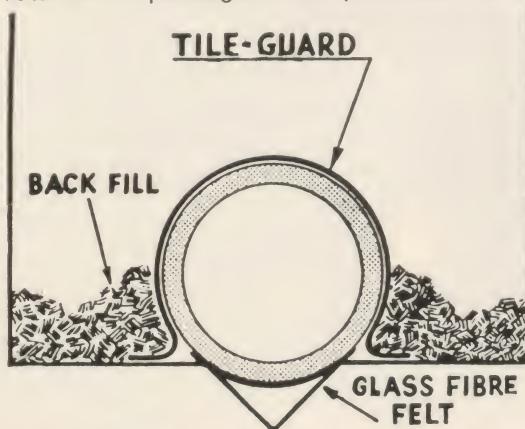
Prof. Haver: In the main, I'm against them. In the milk industry there are some advantages to milk marketing boards but it is to agriculture and Canada's consumers a disadvantage to grant a milk

board or any other board powers to limit production, control the number of producers and limit entry and exit. Consumers are going to be worse off and new entrants to the industry, even a year from now, will have to pay for a quota and thus the benefits of the program are capitalized out and thereby dissipated.

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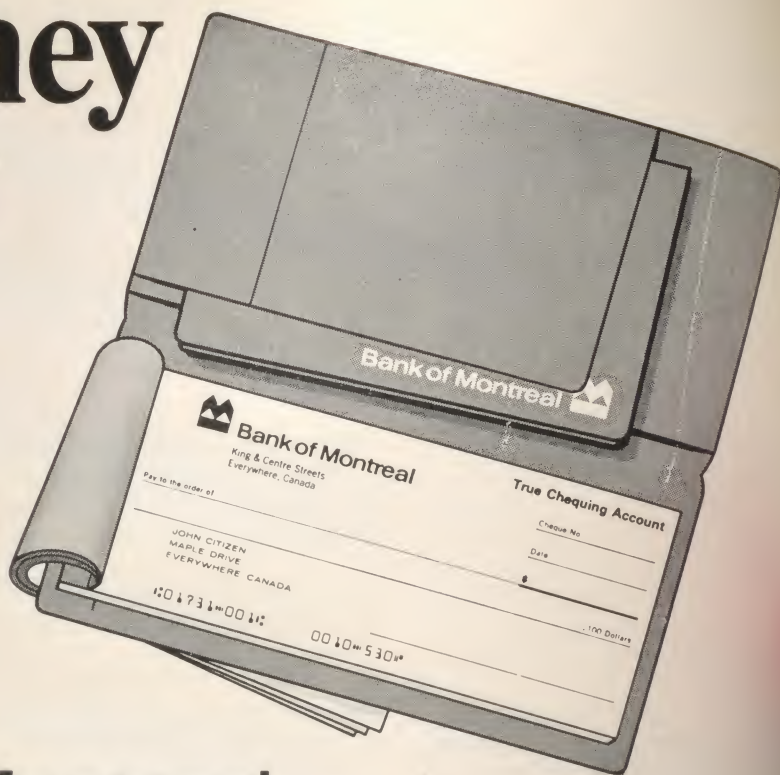
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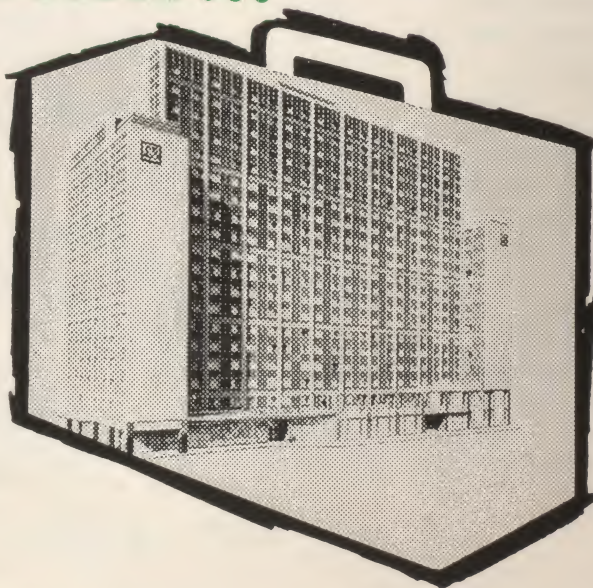


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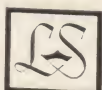
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